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SPECIAL ISSUE

SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE No 2 OF P.L.A.F. HIGH COMMAND

- **50,000 Enemies, Including 10,000 Yankees, Killed, Wounded or Captured**
- **200,000 Soldiers of Puppet Army Routed**
- **Enemy's Mobility Seriously Decreased**
- **BREAKING UP OF PUPPET ARMED FORCES AND ADMINISTRATION**
- **CONSIDERABLE STRENGTHENING OF PEOPLE'S FORCES ON POLITICAL AND MILITARY PLANE**
- **Garrisons in Hundreds of Posts Rally Revolutionary Forces**

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH TO PRESIDENT NGUYEN HUU THO AND THE N.F.L. CENTRAL COMMITTEE

NOTHING CAN SAVE U.S. AGGRESSORS AND THEIR LACKEYS FROM TOTAL COLLAPSE

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THESE last early spring days, our armed forces and people in the South have been fighting splendidly at a sustained tempo and in close co-ordination, striking everywhere and recording everywhere great victories. It was a bolt from the blue for the American aggressors and their valets who have been thrown into extreme confusion and bewilderment; the puppet administration and the puppet army are collapsing by big chunks. Our people all over the country are filled with enthusiasm and pride; our friends on the five continents are overjoyed!

I cordially ask you to transmit my warmest praise to all our Southern compatriots, to the People's Liberation Armed Forces and other patriotic forces.

These early spring victories of the armed forces and people of the South have brought our entire people's resistance against American aggression, for national salvation, to a new situation very favourable to us! Nothing can save the American aggressors and their valets from utter collapse!

The closer we get to victory, the more difficulties and hardships we shall have to cope with. The enemy, like a cornered wild beast, will fling himself about frantically; our armed forces and people must tighten their ranks even more, fight perseveringly, strike hard and repeated blows, record still bigger successes!

Justice is on our side; our compatriots and fighters are of one mind, courageous and resourceful, determined to fight and win; the whole socialist camp and progressive mankind give us their sympathy and support; we shall win complete victory!

Affectionately yours,

We shall win!

Hanoi, February 4, 1968

NOT resigning to live in slavery under the cruel and barbarous rule of the U.S. aggressors and the Thieu-Ky clique of traitors and in response to the sacred appeal of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, since the night from January 29 to 30, 1968, all the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces, side by side with the people and the other patriotic armed forces, simultaneously dashed forward and attacked the enemy repeatedly on all battlefields. The population in the cities and towns and rural areas still under the temporary control of the enemy also rose up simultaneously. All the 14 million people of South Viet Nam, burning with an offensive mettle, rushed forward wave after wave, overwhelmed the enemy and scored marvellous exploits never seen in the war of resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, taking the South Viet Nam revolution to a new high tide.

Our armed forces and people attacked and rose up in all parts of South Viet Nam, from the mountain regions and the countryside to the towns and cities, striking sledge-hammer blows at the most sensible positions of the enemy.

They:

— attacked and rose up in all the six major cities of South Viet Nam, namely *Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Nha Trang, Qui Nhon and Da Lat*;

— attacked and rose up in almost all the provincial capitals and towns throughout South Viet Nam. By February 4, 1968, 37 *provincial capitals and towns* had risen up;

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(Continued from page 1)

— attacked and rose up in *hundreds of district towns and townships* all over South Viet Nam;

— attacked and rose up simultaneously in *all the rural areas still under the temporary control of the enemy;*

— attacked a series of *central organs of the U.S. and its puppets* in the heart of cities such as the *U.S. embassy, the Independence Palace* of the Thieu-Ky clique, the *General Joint Staffs headquarters of the puppet army,* the *command of the puppet Navy,* the *base camp of the puppet marine brigade,* the *headquarters of the U.S. marines, the national police headquarters of the puppets,* etc.; attacked the *headquarters of all the four puppet army corps* (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th); *8 of the 11 puppet division headquarters* (1st, 2nd, 23rd, 25th, 7th, 9th, 21st and 18th divisions), the *headquarters of 2 puppet army's special sectors* (the Saigon special sector and the 24th special sector in Kontum); *15 regimental headquarters of the puppets, two headquarters of U.S. field forces,* etc...

— attacked 30 airfields including 11 among the 14 major airbases of the U.S. and puppets (Da Nang, Chu Lai, Nha Trang, Dong Tac, Bien Hoa, Tan Son Nhat, Phu Bai, Quy Nhon, Pleiku, Can Tho and Phan Rang) and 19 others (Dong Ha, Ai Tu, Ta Con, Hue, Tay Loc, Nuoc Man, Ban Me Thuot, An Khe, Bong Son, Kontum, Dong Ba Thin, Vinh Long, Soc Trang, Ba Xuyen, Vi Thanh, Tra Vinh, Ben Tre, My Tho and Dong Du), destroying *more than 1,500 aircraft.*

— *Cut various land and river communication lines* of the enemy including such important ones as highways numbers 1, 4 and 14 which were completely paralysed; blew up hundreds of bridges; attacked and wrecked *over 4,000 military vehicles* of various kinds including many tanks and armoured cars; captured *an armoured unit,* sank or destroyed *50 warships and gunboats* including a convoy of river assault craft completely wiped out.

— Demolished 6 *radio stations* in 6 major cities, and many rediffusion stations in provincial capitals.

— *Assaulted a series of logistic bases,* general depots and strategic reserve storages; seized or destroyed *millions of tons of bombs, ammunition, fuel and other war equipment;* many of these depots contained each thousands of tons of war material as in Pleiku, Da Nang, Chu Lai, Phu Bai, Hue, Ban Me Thuot, Quy Nhon, Lai Khe, Long Binh, Soc Trang, Ba Tri, etc, and others contained each hundreds of millions of litres of petrol as Lien Chieu, Nha Be, Bien Hoa, Hue, Ban Me Thuot, Kontum, etc.

During the period under review, according to initial reports, our armed forces and people wiped out over 50,000 enemy troops including more than 10,000 U.S. troops, and disintegrated 200,000 puppet troops. Many U.S. or puppet army units were completely wiped out such as the 7th puppet Armoured Regiment and 2 U.S. armoured regiments in Hue and Phu Bai, and 29 battalions including 9 U.S. battalions and 1 Australian battalion. Many puppet army units disintegrated, including the 2nd Regiment in Quang Tri-Thua Thien-Hue area, the 45th Regiment in Ban Me Thuot and the armoured unit in Pleiku; 12 infantry battalions, 1 armoured unit in Binh Dinh; and 4 military training centres (Lang Tho, Quang Trung, Van Kiep and Thu Duc, the latter being a reserve officers' school);

— *Captured hundreds of thousands of guns* of various types and destroyed hundreds of cannons of various calibres;

— In co-ordination with the revolutionary armed forces, the people in all localities rose up, *overthrew the puppet administration* of the traitors, henchmen of the U.S. aggressors, broke off the enemy control in all forms, wiped out the cruel agents who have committed bloody crimes against the people, liberated over 20,000 persons detained by the enemy and established the revolutionary power.

In the revolutionary storm, *the people's political and armed forces have swollen their ranks and grown up very quickly.* Millions of people, regardless of age, sex, political tendency, religious belief and nationality, stood up as one in close unity. Workers, peasants and other labouring people have brought into play their initiative and active role in this uprising of the entire people.

Personalities, intellectuals, youth, students, pupils, women, businessmen and other strata of the people are also contributing to the cause of national liberation. The "Alliance of National Forces for Independence and Peace" in Saigon, the "Front of Alliance for National Independence, Democracy and Peace" in Hue and other revolutionary organizations have come into being to assume the glorious task toward the country. The People's Liberation Armed Forces issued from our heroic people have upheld the tradition of determination to fight and to win. The armed self-defence, militia and guerilla teams and rallied units from the puppet army, and many other patriotic armed organizations have come into being, equipped themselves with weapons they had captured from the enemy and are standing side by side with the people in the fight against the enemy to save the country.

Great changes have taken place right in the ranks of the puppet army and puppet administration. Many soldiers and officers, many puppet army units and puppet administration personnel, responding to the call of the Fatherland, have seized this unique opportunity to return to the people's side. According to initial reports, in only 11 provinces all the garrisons in 169 enemy posts have risen up and crossed over to the revolutionary side. Many organizations of patriotic puppet armymen who oppose the U.S. and Thieu-Ky clique have come into existence.

IN face of the thunderous military attacks of the revolutionary armed forces and before the tidal waves of uprising of the people, the *U.S. aggressors and their hirelings have suffered heavy setbacks in all fields, military and political,* and in both *strategy and tactics.* They have been landed into an utterly critical situation. They are tied up everywhere and are hit right in their central organs. A few temporary military fortes of the enemy which they used to boast of such as 'their fire power and mobility are now considerably reduced and even crippled in some places. The U.S. troops are now scattered, their fighting power has dropped visibly, their transport and supply services run into increasing difficulties and their mobility has seen a drastic decrease. Their unsurmountable fundamental weaknesses such as unjust political objective, passive patched-up strategy, low morale, subjective planning, mechanical tactics, etc. are aggravating.

The U.S. troops have proved unable to constitute the hard core for the puppet army while the latter which has already been decrepit is disintegrating further. The rotten, impotent puppet administration has been smashed or disintegrated by big chunks in many places and has ceased to be an efficient prop for the U.S. The Thieu-Ky clique are controlling nobody except a handful of their henchmen who are crying out in despair, and spreading false reports to cover their failures, reassure themselves and deceive public opinion. The signboards of "independence", "democracy", "constitutionality" and the like of the puppet administration are crumbling like a soap bubble. *The basis of the U.S. neo-colonialist policy in South Viet Nam is being sapped to the root.*

THE victories won by the revolutionary armed forces and people of South Viet Nam during the past few days are tremendous and all-sided victories of paramount importance.

These victories prove that the strength of our armed forces and people is invincible. This is the strength of ardent patriotism and deep hatred for the enemy, the strength of indomitable struggle of a heroic people who has a glorious history of thousands of years of resistance against foreign aggression and who already defeated many barbarous aggressors.

This is the strength of the *solidarity bloc* of the South Vietnamese people who, united millions as one man, have risen up under the glorious banner of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the other patriotic organisations and are determined to make sacrifices and fight to overthrow the common enemy of the nation to save the country and their families.

This is the *resultant and all-sided strength of the people's war* and the armed and political forces which applying diversified and extremely creative forms of combat and struggle, have fought very well and very hard everywhere and obtained tremendous victories.

These victories also prove that *our position, which was already firm, has become much firmer,* and *our strength which was already mighty, has become much mightier.* Our armed forces and people by strongly developing their initiative of offensive and simultaneously pushing forward, have won more victories as they fought and are winning more and still greater victories and advancing toward complete victory. *Our force which was already strong, has become much stronger as we fought,* both in morale and organisation. We have fought while developing our forces and we have the necessary strength to defeat the enemy in whatever circumstances.

These great victories are also the results of the *blood-sealed sentiments between the North and the South,* the close relations between the great rear and the great frontline, which are being turned into a very great moral and material strength to defeat the enemy. These victories are also inseparable from the *heartfelt support of our brothers and friends in the five continents* who are doing their best to assist and encourage us.

The great victories of our South Vietnamese armed forces and people also prove that *the U.S. imperialists, though having a big aggressor army* of 1,200,000 *men and resorting to the most barbarous and perfidious manoeuvres have remained helpless in face of the miraculous force of attack of our South Vietnamese armed forces and people.* The failure of the U. S. is a foregone conclusion. No matter how obstinately and frenziedly they may act and no matter how many more troops and war means they may bring in, they can by no means come out of their predicament and *will certainly meet with complete failure.*

Yankees carrying their dead and wounded after the P.L.A.F. attack on U.S. Embassy in Saigon (Jan. 31, 1968)

U.S. Marines beating a retreat on the bridge crossing the Huong River in Hue (Jan. 31, 1968)

FEBRUARY 3, 1968 APPEAL OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM N.F.L. CENTRAL COMMITTEE

SINCE the night of January 30, 1968, i.e. New Year's day of the Mau Than Lunar Year, in response to rousing orders from the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the armed forces and people of the South have rushed forward, resolved to mete out deserved punishment to the American aggressors and the traitorous Thieu-Ky clique, who have trampled underfoot all aspirations and interests of our people and continued their bombings and shellings, massacres and repression of our compatriots even during Tet, our traditional festival day.

From Quang Tri - Thua Thien Hue to Cape Ca Mau, from Saigon, Nha Trang Da Nang, to Dalat, the Western High Plateaux in wave after wave of tempestuous assault, inspired by anger and hatred accumulated over the years for the sworn enemy of the nation, our compatriots and fighters of the People's Liberation Armed Forces have been fighting valiantly, striking hard blows on all fronts, making deep thrusts into scores of hey enemy bases, achieving brilliant feats without precedent in the resistance against American aggression, for national salvation.

The armed forces and people of the South have revived the historic days of the victories at Bach Dang, Chi Lang Dong Da, the Nam Ky insurrection**, the August Revolution***, the Dien Bien Phu victory, carried on the tradition of our forefathers, and shed glorious light on the history of the heroic Vietnamese people's struggle against foreign aggression. In co-ordination with the People's Liberation Armed Forces, everywhere people of all walks of life have rushed forward to fight the Americans and annihilate their puppets, liberate towns and villages, and set up revolutionary power. Large numbers of soldiers, officers, and whole units of the puppet army, and many members of the puppet administration have seized upon this unique opportunity to turn their guns on the enemy, return to the side of the people, and serve the fatherland.*

The victories won in this early spring by our armed forces and people are bringing joy and enthusiasm to our entire people and to our friends on the five continents, sowing fear and panic among the American aggressors and the traitorous Thieu-Ky clique, and causing their quick collapse.

The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation warmly praises and commends the brilliant exploits of the fighters and cadres of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, the forces waging political struggle, the members of the Associations for Liberation, all patriotic compatriots and volunteer fighters in town and country, delta and mountain, all over South Viet Nam.

The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation warmly hails the "Alliance of National Forces for Independence and Peace" and the Front of Alliance for National Independence, Democracy and Peace, and other revolutionary organisations born in this historic hour and engaged in the fight for national salvation together with the entire people.

The American aggressors and the Thieu-Ky clique, driven to madness by their shameful defeats, are conducting savage terror and repression against our compatriots of all strata, bombing and shelling populous areas, pagodas, etc. in the hope of crushing the insurrectional spirit of our armed forces and people, thus revealing their warlike, mulish and blood-thirsty nature.

In face of this situation, the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation calls on:

— the entire armed forces and people to rush forward on the impetus of their victories, strike even harder, deeper and on a wider front, launch a general offensive to annihilate the American aggressors and the Thieu-Ky clique, and advance towards still greater victories;

— people of all walks of life in the cities and regions still under the temporary control of the enemy, irrespective of age, sex, political conviction, religious belief, and nationality, to unite and rise up, wage armed insurrection, use whatever weapon they have in hand, act in co-ordination with the revolutionary armed forces, smash the puppet administrative machinery, put an end to their servitude, conquer the right to be masters of their destinies, win peace, independence, freedom, and a decent livelihood;

— the people in the newly-liberated areas to quickly assemble in revolutionary organisations, organise armed self-defence groups, set up and defend revolutionary power, crush all actions and attempts by the enemy to fight back;

— the people of the old liberated areas and the revolutionary bases to devote all their efforts to serving the front, production work and combat, and achieving still more resounding exploits.

The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation calls on Chinese and other foreign residents to side with the South Vietnamese people against the American aggressors and their lackeys.

The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation calls on soldiers and officers of the puppet army, members of the puppet administration to quickly seize upon this favourable opportunity and, together with the people of all strata and the revolutionary armed forces, rise up in rebellion, turn their guns on the American aggressors and the Thieu-Ky clique, in order to save themselves, their families and the country.

The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation calls on American and satellite soldiers to oppose the orders of their warlike commanders, refuse to be driven to a shameful death, refuse to oppose the patriotic activities of the Vietnamese people, resolutely demand their repatriation and an end to this dirty war of aggression.

The Central Committee of the National Front for Liberation warmly hails the 17 million compatriots of the 38th-and-his North, who have been giving ceaseless encouragement to the armed forces and people of the South and standing shoulder to shoulder with them in the sacred resistance against American aggression, for national salvation.

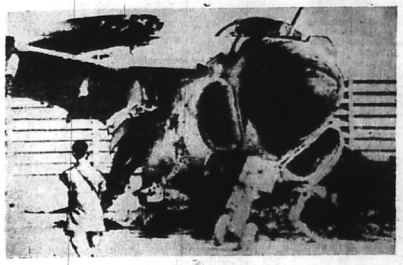
The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation solemnly calls on the people and fraternal Cambodia and Laos, of the friendly countries, on the American people and all peace- and justice-loving people in the world to give even stronger support and help to the South Vietnamese people's struggle against American aggression, for national salvation.

Compatriots and fighters!

The hour has struck! Let the 14 million South Vietnamese people rise up and deal mortal blows at the American aggressors, overthrow the Thieu-Ky traitorous clique, win total victory, liberate the South, build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam, and advance towards national reunification.

Under the glorious and ever-victorious banner of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, forward!

South Viet Nam, February 3, 1968



An American jet in Da Nang airbase destroyed by P.L.A.F. shells on Jan. 30, 1968

* Decisive victories won by the Vietnamese people over the foreign aggressors in the 14th, 15th and 18th centuries.

** Armed insurrection in 1940 in the Mekong delta.

*** Successful insurrection in August 1945 throughout Viet Nam, from which the D.R.V.N. was born.

D.R.V.N. FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY TRINH ANSWERS INTERVIEW

BY Mr. B.J. CABANES, A.F.P. SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN HANOI

Question 1 :

The Vietnam war is undergoing new developments with the biggest events in South Viet Nam. What are in this new situation the prospects of a solution to the conflict ?

Answer :

In its war of aggression in Viet Nam, the United States has gone from defeat to defeat, and has been driven into the quagmire without any hope of getting out of it. Over the past few days, the patriotic armed forces in the South, along with the mass uprising of millions of people, have launched unceasing and perfectly coordinated attacks throughout South Viet Nam, wiping out many enemy effectives, controlling several cities and numerous provincial and district towns, and liberating wide rural areas. The administrative apparatus of the puppet regime is collapsing; the puppet army is disintegrating by big chunks.

The marvellous feat of the heroic South Vietnamese people has filled our entire people with great enthusiasm and just pride; it has received a warm tribute from the peoples of the world.

Seething with hatred at the monstrous crimes of the U.S. aggressors and the traitorous Thieu—Ky clique, the whole Vietnamese people, united as one man, are determined to forge ahead in the impetus of their victories and to carry on their fight until complete realization of their sacred national rights.

The stand of our people on the settlement of the Viet Nam problem is very clear : the United States has brought in troops for aggression against Viet Nam, it must end the aggression and withdraw its troops from Viet-Nam. That is the spirit of the four points of the Government of the Democratic Republic of VietNam and the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, which conform to the fundamental principles and the main clauses of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

In my January 28, 1967 Statement which was further clarified by that of December 29 last, I clearly indicated the way to talks between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the United States. Broad sections of world public opinion have warmly hailed our just position and serious attitude. But the bellicose U.S. ruling circles obstinately persist in their aggressive designs. The U.S. Government claims to be "exploring" and "trying to understand" the position of Hanoi. In fact that is a manoeuvre to soothe public opinion and cover up its attempts for continued scalation of the aggressive war in Viet Nam. The so-called "San Antonio formula", is but the theme of "a conditional halt in the bombing". Obviously, the United States does not seriously want talks to settle the Viet Nam problem. It must be held responsible for its obstinacy.

Question 2 :

In your December 29, 1967 speech, you stated in part: "After the unconditional cessation of the bombings and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam will hold talks with the United States on relevant problems". What do you mean by "relevant problems"?

Answer :

They are questions related to a settlement of the Viet Nam problem on the basis of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam; they are also the other questions which could be raised by either side.

Question 3 :

It has been subsequently clarified that the talks can begin after an appropriate time following the unconditional cessation of the bombings and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Could you clarify further the meaning of "appropriate time"?

Answer :

The talks will begin as soon as the United States has proved that it has really stopped unconditionally the bombings and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Hanoi, February 8, 1968

LATEST NEWS

The P.L.A.F. and Revolutionary Armed Forces win fresh victories throughout South Viet Nam

Up to Feb. 8, 1968 the P.L.A.F. and revolutionary forces got control of the greater part of Saigon-Cholon and many districts of Saigon. Previously on Feb. 3, after a violent attack on Tan Son Nhat airbase and seizure of 2 outposts west and north of the airfield, they destroyed or damaged 50 aircraft and blew up an arms and ammunition depot right in the airbase. On Feb. 4 they swept clean the enemy in the 8th town district, seized control of the Y-shaped bridge, inflicted heavy losses on a puppet battalion which attempted to re-take the area, and routed puppet rangers in a number of places.

The revolutionary armed forces were also in full control of the 6th and 7th districts. Western news agencies admitted that 7 of the 9 Saigon districts were "red" that is they were attacked or held by the revolutionary armed forces. Enemy police and civil guards proved completely powerless. A number of units and soldiers of the puppet airborne and ranger forces refused to go in relief missions.

Tidings of victories won by the revolutionary armed forces were announced continually through loudspeakers in various streets of the town districts controlled by the insurgents. Thousands of youths asked for arms to fight on the side of the revolutionary armed forces. A supply line was formed by old folks and young girls in the city to bring food to the fighters. Combat pits and trenches and barricades were built in preparation for new fighting.

FIERCE battles were raging on Feb. 8 near the base of U.S. Marines in Da Nang. On Feb. 3 and 4, the P.L.A.F. twice shelled the U.S. strategic air base, the 9th and 10th attacks on this base so far. Hundreds of aircraft and a great quantity of war material were destroyed in these last 2 attacks by the P.L.A.F.

THE flag of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. kept fluttering on the flag pole of the old imperial palace. The enemy made many attempts to counter-attack and re-take the citadel but in vain. In the afternoon of Feb. 7, 1 regular battalion and 1 scout company of the puppet army were wiped out at the gate west of the citadel. In the 4 days ending February 7, the P.L.A.F. sank 9 U.S. marines-loaded ships on Huong River; they also shot down and captured many U.S. air pirates right in the city. According to Western reports, an American convoy of 15 vehicles coming from Phu Bai was wiped out 4km south of Hue : 4 *Ontos* tanks, armed each with six 106mm recoilless cannons, were destroyed.

ACCORDING to Giai Phong Press Agency on Feb. 7, the P.L.A.F. dealt a crushing blow at the enemy at Lang Vay, Khe Sanh region.

Lang Vay was a Special Forces camp, an outpost on the Khe Sanh defence line South of the 17th parallel, bordering on Laos.

On Feb. 7, at 0.15 a.m., the P.L.A.F. opened fire, and after 2.15 hours of fighting, they completely destroyed this position along with 2 heights defending it, 2km further south. The P.L.A.F. took many prisoners and seized all enemy armament. Lang Vay position was defended by one thousand men composed of U.S. "advisors" and puppet troops.

The Same Quibbling and Obstinacy

Commentary of NHAN DAN, Feb. 5, 1968

THE whole of South Viet Nam is now boiling with a spirit of offensive and seething with the effervescence of uprising. Everywhere the revolutionary armed forces, together with the people, are rushing vigorously forward and dealing blow after blow at the enemy. The people in Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, and more than 50 other cities and towns as well as in a whole series of provincial capitals and district centres and wide rural areas across the length and breadth of South Viet Nam have risen up. Many key centres, military and political, of the U.S. forces and their puppets have come under the P.L.A.F. attack. Major puppet army units and big chunks of the puppet administration have disintegrated. This victory of the South Vietnamese people has filled our friends all over the world with enthusiasm. It is also an eloquent proof of the ardent patriotism displayed by the 14 million South Vietnamese people in their endeavour to defeat the aggressors and win back independence and freedom.

This, however, has caused President Johnson embarrassment and displeasure. On Feb. 1, 1968, in Washington, when conferring a medal on a U.S. pilot credited with massacre of Vietnamese civilians, he said that "better signs" would be needed before the U.S. would agree to stop bombing North Viet Nam.

It is clear that Johnson and the White House are persisting in demanding "reciprocity" from the Vietnamese people. The latter should, as Johnson said, show "better signs" which means that they should stop or scale down their fighting. Such is the real essence of the off-mentioned "San Antorio formula":

U.S. expeditionary troops are invading South Viet Nam, U.S. aircraft and warships are day and night barbarously shelling the D.R.V.N. All that is being strongly condemned by world public opinion. The pressing demand of the whole world, including a number of U.S. allies, is that the U.S. must, first and foremost, unconditionally stop the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N., to pave the way for an overall ending of U.S. aggression and a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem. The world has acclaimed and continues to acclaim the just stand and unswerving attitude taken by the D.R.V.N. government as expounded in Jan. 28, 1967 and Dec. 29, 1967 statements of Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh.

Observers in various countries have been wondering whether the U.S. rulers would move in the direction of the light afforded by these statements to get out of the dark tunnel of a perilous and losing war. Following much quibbling and "probing" President Johnson's recent statement indicates that the White House is still bent on taking the path of aggression, in disregard of bitter realities on the battlefield and of world-wide protests,

The bigger their obstinacy, the more losses the U.S. aggressors will bring to the American people and the more strongly they will be condemned in the world. The 31 million Vietnamese people are resolved to bring their anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation, to complete victory.